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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Miami Beach Program Seeks to ‘Unwrap’ Spirit of Holidays for Homeless**

*— The goal of the program is to remind people experiencing homelessness  
that help is available —*

**Miami Beach, FL** – The City of Miami Beach has launched a new holiday program aimed at giving hope to the homeless as they are invited to “Unwrap Your Journey” in a welcoming environment where they can learn about available services.

“We want the homeless population to know there is reason to be hopeful and that an opportunity for a better life awaits them,” Miami Beach City Manager Alina T. Hudak explained. “There are people on our Homeless Outreach team who can arrange various services, including a warm meal, hot shower and a place to sleep other than on the streets.”

The “Unwrap Your Journey” program provides the homeless with holiday gift bags that contain t-shirts, hand sanitizer, homeless outreach brochures and even shoes and sanitary items based on availability.

Each gift bag will include a handwritten, inspirational card written by participants in the All-Stars Youth Program. The holiday “Unwrap Your Journey” program runs from Dec. 7 to Jan. 3.

“Our goal is to have the homeless come to our office and see what services we provide as well as receive a little holiday cheer,” added Alba Tarre, Miami Beach interim director for the Office of Housing and Community Services. “We provide year-round services and support for the homeless in our city and want to ensure our homeless population knows about these services, especially during the holiday season.”

Homeless visitors can go to the lobby of the Housing & Community Services office at 555 17 Street where they will find a holiday tree donated by Miami Christmas Lights and other festive decorations. They will be invited to choose an ornament from the tree along with a holiday gift bag based on their specific needs. Team members will use the opportunity to let the homeless know about available services and how they can begin their journey to ending homelessness.

The Housing & Community Services office is open weekdays (except on holidays) from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The office closes between noon to 1 p.m.

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